



WORLD WATER WEEK SOCIAL MEDIA HUB

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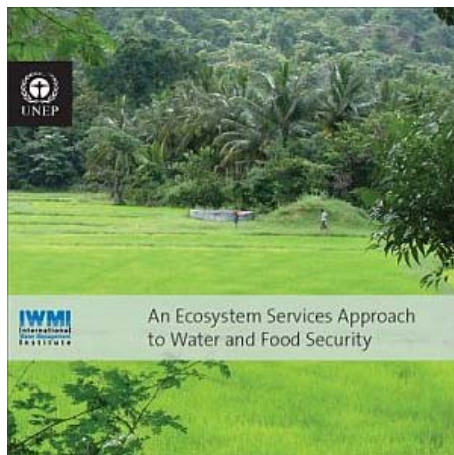
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22 August 2011

Radical overhaul of agriculture can create farms that enhance rather than degrade the world's ecosystems, says report published today



According to the authors of a new report released today at the World Water Week in Stockholm, a radical transformation in the way farming and natural systems interact could simultaneously boost food production and protect the environment; two goals that often have been at odds. The authors warn, however, that the world must act quickly if the goal is to save the Earth's main breadbasket areas where resources are so depleted the situation threatens to decimate global supplies of fresh water and cripple agricultural systems worldwide.

A new analysis resulting from the **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with 19 collaborating organizations, outlines the urgent need to rethink current strategies for intensifying agriculture, given that food production already accounts for 70 to 90 percent of withdrawals from available water resources in some areas. The report, *An Ecosystem Services Approach to Water and Food Security*, finds that in many breadbaskets, including the plains of northern China, India's Punjab and the Western United States, water limits are close to being "reached or breached." Meanwhile, 1.6 billion people already live under conditions of water scarcity, and the report warns that number could soon grow to 2 billion.

"Agriculture is both a major cause and victim of ecosystem degradation," said Eline Boelee of **IWMI**, the lead scientific editor of

twitter hashtag: #wwweek

Bpicampus.com: Our Earth: Water, Climate Change, Waste, Planning – World Water Week <http://t.co/gwrM9RM> #WWWEEK #IWMI - IWMI_Water_News (IWMI)

Climate-news.com: Radical Changes in Agriculture Needed for Food, Water Security <http://t.co/lhS3kFo> #WWWEEK #IWMI - IWMI_Water_News (IWMI)

Humanitariannews.org: The-scientist.com: Opinion: The Water Deficit <http://t.co/dnBVVw4> #WWWEEK #IWMI - IWMI_Water_News (IWMI)

Esafs10sl.org: Invited Speakers of ESAFS 10 <http://t.co/8YIqTtV> #WWWEEK #IWMI - IWMI_Water_News (IWMI)

Alumni.csu.edu.au: Healthy ecosystems vital for food security <http://t.co/DPrD5zN> #WWWEEK #IWMI - IWMI_Water_News (IWMI)

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Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)



the report. "And it is not clear whether we can continue to increase yields with the present practices. Sustainable intensification of agriculture is a priority for future food security, but we need to take a more holistic 'landscape' approach."

Find out more: www.iwmi.org/ecosystems

at 06:28

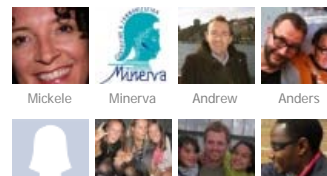


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